

Appln No. 09/922,105
Amdt. Dated September 02, 2004
Response to Office action of June 09, 2004

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. The Applicant has carefully considered the official communication dated June 9, 2004. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments and the following remarks are fully responsive to the official communication.
2. The claims have been amended in light of the official communication. It is submitted that no new matter has been added as a result of the amendment.
3. In paragraph 3 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4 to 7 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Akhavian et al.
4. Claim 1 has been amended to emphasize the fact that the ink distribution assembly includes an elongate carrier and has an ink supply side and a printhead side. The elongate carrier defines an elongate recess on the printhead side for receiving printhead chips end-to-end. The carrier defines feed formations, each of which is in fluid communication with respective sets of feed openings. A cover assembly is engageable with the carrier and is configured to enclose the feed formations. Ink flow passages interconnect the feed formations and respective feed openings. The ink flow passages converge laterally towards the recess.
5. Akhavian et al does not disclose an elongate recess in which printhead chips are received, end-to-end. Furthermore, Akhavian et al does not disclose ink flow passages that converge laterally towards a recess in which a number of printhead chips are received.
6. On page 4 of the office action, the Examiner has stated that "the printhead side of the carrier defines a longitudinal recess, the printhead being received in the recess (fig.6, printheads 40 are received in recesses);...". It is respectfully submitted that this is not correct. The printhead dies are received on the carrier, as shown in figures 5 and 7. What the Examiner has referred to as a recess is an opening in a "mounting layer 34" that defines part of an ink supply passage 323 as shown in figure 7.
7. It will be appreciated that the printhead of the present invention is relatively thin and elongate. Thus, it is necessary to provide a steadily narrowing and converging ink flow path that terminates at the recess. Such an arrangement is not necessary with Akhavian et al. It is respectfully submitted that Akhavian et al discloses a number of printhead dies that are positioned on a carrier, as shown in figure 2 of Akhavian et al. Each printhead die of Akhavian et al receives ink from a single ink passage as shown in figure 7 and described in column 6, lines 22 to 31.
8. In the office action, the Examiner has stated that "the printhead side" defines "at least one discrete feed formation (343), that extends through the carrier to be in fluid communication with the, or each, inlet opening of a further respective set, via a further number of the feed openings, from the ink supply side (column 6, lines 31-40);..."

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9. Claim 1 has been amended to emphasize the fact that at least one feed formation is defined on the printhead side and is in fluid communication with feed openings from the printhead side to the ink supply side through the carrier. The "discrete feed formation" referred to by the examiner is a passage that extends through the carrier from the ink supply side to the printhead side. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the "discrete feed formation" of Akhavain et al is not the same as the feed formation of claim 1, as amended.
10. It is respectfully submitted that the ink distribution assembly of claim 1, as amended, addresses difficulties associated with delivering ink to respective ink inlets of elongate printhead chips positioned end-to-end in an elongate recess. These difficulties are not encountered with the arrangement of Akhavain et al. It follows that the configuration of Akhavain et al is of necessity different to that of the assembly of claim 1, as amended.
11. In view of the above paragraphs, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1, as amended, is novel in the light of Akhavain et al. Claims 2 to 13 are dependent on claim 1, as amended. Claim 14 is directed to a printing device that incorporates the limitations of claim 1, as amended. It follows that the submission extends to the remaining claims.
12. In paragraph 5, the Examiner has rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akhavain et al in view of Thiel et al. Claim 3 is dependent on claim 1, as amended, which, it is respectfully submitted, is novel in the light of Akhavain et al.
13. In paragraph 6, the Examiner has stated that claims 8, 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akhavain et al in view of Su et al. Claims 8, 9 and 11 are all dependent on claim 1, as amended, which it is respectfully submitted, is novel in the light of Akhavain et al.

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CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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